1	2	3	4	5
25	Uttar Pradesh	72200000	80837000	89334000
26	Chhattisgarh	1059558	1257557	1900200
27	Jharkhand	315378	401565	465861
28	West Bengal	9373598	12006220	13156083
29	Andaman & Nicobar	95730	89968	109582
30	Chandigarh	568654	584316	615585
31	Daman & Diu	602018	451099	403911
32	Delhi*	1771095	2124373	2706126
33	Dadra&NagarHaveli	452302	447961	532184
34	Lakshadweep	7085	5286	5174
35	Pondicherry	500616	525670	590498
	TOTAL	274755546	315746814	374518231

*Figures are estimated.

Increase in tourism in the country

†712. SHRIMATI PREMACARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kondey Nast Traveller' and TTG Travel has put India in the category of the five premier tourist centres and on account of this there is likelihood of increase in tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of tourists visited India during the last year and the number of tourists likely to visit in the current year;

(c) whether Goverment are making any special arrangement for providing more facilities to the tourists and their protection;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The CondeNast Traveller, UK, in its Readers' Travel Awards 2005 has rated India fifth amongst the top 20 tourist destinations of the world. The TTG Asia has rated Ministry of Tourism as the best National Tourism Organisation. Such accolades for India from reputed international publications may boost tourist arrivals to India.

(b) An estimated 3.37 million foreign tourists visited India during 2004. Going by an estimated growth of about 14% observed during the first 10 months of 2005 as compared to same period of last year, it is expected that tourist arrivals during 2005 may be around 3.8 million.

(c) to (e) A number of steps have been taken by the Goverment in recent time to improve facilitation for tourists as also to improve the infrastructure and provide security. Ministry of Home Affairs have been requested to improve Immigration services at international airports. Tourists are being provided information about Indian destinations, and assistance required to plan their trips to India through the web sites of Ministry of Tourism and various State Goverments. Matter is being pursued for augmenting the hotel accommodation in the country. Providing safety and security to both foreign and domestic tourists is high on the Ministry's priority list and introductions of tourists police is one such measure to ensure tourist safety.

Policies to build new hotels by private sector

713. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Goverment have granted higher allocations to keep the tourism industry on the priority of State Goverments;

(b) if so, the details of such allocations made to Andhra Pradesh during the current year;